

REMARKS

Claims 28-32, 34-51, and 57 are all of the claims pending in the present Application. Claims 52-56 and 58 are canceled to permit all the allowable claims 28-32, 34-51, and 57 to pass immediately to allowance.

It is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claim 58 stands rejected under 37 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,096,648 to Lopatin or US Patent 6,121,150 to Avanzino, further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, and further in view of any one of US Patent 6,323,142 to Yamazaki, US Patent 6,566,756 to Morisaki, or US Patent 6,423,651 to Nakano.

Although Applicant still considers that all claims are patentable, cancellation of this claim renders the rejection moot.

I. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 28-32, 34-51, and 57, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone

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number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 4/26/06

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frederick E. Cooperrider", written over a horizontal line.

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